

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A mineplough which comprises at least one blade element which is set at an angle to the general direction of movement of the plough so as to deflect lifted earth to one or both sides of the plough, each said blade element having tines arranged so as to lift earth ahead of that blade element in the direction of travel thereof, ~~depth control means for controlling the depth of cut of the tines~~ and at least two connecting members ~~linkages to connect the mineplough to a suitable carrier vehicle therefor~~, wherein each blade element is comprised of a number of intersecting plates whose planes lie substantially parallel to the said direction of travel and which define open channels therebetween and further wherein each of the connecting members ~~linkages~~ contains at least one crushable element capable of absorbing blast energy.

2. (Currently amended) A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the intersecting plates comprise a first set of plates arranged substantially in ~~the~~ a vertical plane and a second set of plates arranged substantially at right angles to the first set.

3. (Previously presented) A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the open channels between the plates are of smaller dimension than any mine which the plough is intended to clear.

4. (Previously presented) A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the open channels have a minimum dimension of the order of 150mm.

5. (Currently amended) A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the front face of the blade is covered with a covering ~~relatively weak~~ material capable of being disrupted by a blast of energy.

6. (Currently amended) A mineplough as claimed in claim 5 wherein the ~~relatively weak~~ covering material is comprised of a thin sheet of metal or a plastics material.

7. (Previously presented) A mineplough as claimed in claim 2 wherein the vertically-disposed plates are extended generally downwards and forwards of the blade to form the tines.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A mineplough as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one crushable element comprises a substantially U-shaped channel member ~~associated with each linkage and~~ arranged so as to absorb blast energy ~~any shock transmitted to it~~ by at least partially collapsing.

10. (Currently amended) A mineplough as claimed in claim 9 wherein the channel member comprises ~~two separate~~ first and second U-shaped channel pieces arranged such that the first U-shaped channel piece ~~one~~ lies within the second U-shaped channel piece ~~other~~ and the first U-shaped channel piece becomes effective to absorb ~~shock~~ blast energy only once the ~~outer~~ second U-shaped channel piece has been deformed.

11. (Cancelled)